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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

- OF -

FREEBRIDGE LYNN

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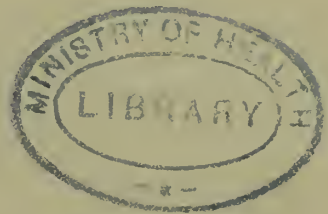
REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN.

ANNUAL REPORT BY DR. J. HAMILTON

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Health Report for the year 1948 for your consideration.

The general health of the District has been good. There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease.

As a result of the operation of the National Health Service Act, Freebridge Lynn and King's Lynn, were combined to form Area No. 9 of the nine Areas into which the County had been divided for the administrative purposes of the designated Local Health Authority; the Norfolk County Council on 5th July, 1948. Dr. K. F. Alford became the first full time Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, and from that date the Local Health Authority became responsible for schemes concerning the Care of Mothers and Young Children, Midwifery Services, Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Vaccination and Immunisation, Ambulance Services, Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care, Domestic Health and Mental Health Services.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The arrangements from the 5th July, 1948, are as follows:-

A. HOSPITALS. (a) General Hospitals.

The West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital and St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn are available.

(b) Isolation Hospitals.

The Isolation Hospitals at East Dereham and King's Lynn, can provide accommodation for infectious cases from the Area.

B. MATERNITY.

Stow Vicarage Maternity Home (16 Beds) and St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (5 Beds). Urgent and abnormal cases could be admitted into the West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital.

C. TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases, Orthopaedic Clinics were held regularly at the West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital as Regional Hospital Board Specialist Services.

D. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

The District had no Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

E. MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

Provided by the District Nurses.

F. HEALTH VISITING.

The District Nurses acted as Health Visitors.



#### G. HOME NURSING.

Service provided by the District Nurses.

#### H. VACCINATION AND DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination is carried out by General Medical Practitioners taking part in the Local Health Authority's Scheme.

Eleven vaccinations were reported by Medical Practitioners during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation was also carried out by General Practitioners and in schools by the Medical Officer of Health. In 1948, 126 children under five and 92 between five and fifteen years were immunised, while 225 children received re-inforcing injections. It is considered that 48.86% of children under five years and 61.34% of school children have been immunised against Diphtheria.

#### I. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The following transport was available:-

##### (a) Infectious Diseases.

One ambulance car at the Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.  
Two ambulance cars and two sitting cars at the Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.

##### (b) Non-Infectious Illnesses, etc.

The Red Cross Society, by arrangement with the County Council, has three ambulances stationed in King's Lynn for the use of that town and Freebridge Lynn.

##### (c) Voluntary Hospital Car Service.

Provides 16 cars in King's Lynn.

Hired cars could be used when necessary, by the Welfare Officers, for the transport of Mental Cases.

#### J. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER CARE.

Three Centres were established at Ashwicken, North Wootton and Sandringham to supply sick room equipment, on loan, when asked for by District Nurses.

#### K. DOMESTIC HELP.

Home Help is arranged when asked for by the Welfare Officers. The Welfare Officers attending weekly at their "Contact Points" at Massingham, Castleacre and Grimston were ready to advise the public on the use of the Domestic Help and other schemes instituted by the National Health Service Act. No requests for Home Help were received during 1948.

#### L. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

St. Andrews, Thorpe and Hellesdon Hospitals received mental cases during the year. The Welfare Officers established "Contact Points" at Massingham, Castleacre and Grimston which they attended weekly.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. (i) As in previous years, acute shortage of water was experienced in numerous villages during the summer months. The



1944-1945

1946-1947

1948-1949

1950-1951

1952-1953

1954-1955

1956-1957

1958-1959

1960-1961

1962-1963

purchase of an 800 gallon portable water tank by the Council proved very useful, particularly in the case of the Parish of Middleton, where extreme shortage of water existed over a number of weeks.

In addition to shortage of water during the summer months, the question of purity of water, particularly in the case of shallow wells, has been far from satisfactory. Of twenty samples taken, seven passed bacteriological examination and of the remaining thirteen all were of poor quality, of which approximately half were definitely unfit.

The need for a general piped water supply remains urgent, and it is to be regretted that through no fault of the Council, no start has been made on the Regional Scheme drawn up by the Council's Consultant Engineers. However, during the year, the Council augmented their existing water undertakings, by purchasing the two borowells, together with all necessary pumping apparatus, from the Air Ministry at Great Massingham and Harpley Dams. The Council also agreed to a Scheme to provide piped water mains in the Parishes of Little Massingham and Harpley, and considered a scheme for North Wootton Marsh, which however, was shelved temporarily, pending the commencement of the District Water Supply Scheme.

At present, approximately 18% of the houses in the District are serviced by means of a piped water supply.

(ii) Water for some of the existing piped supplies is purchased in bulk, and bacteriological examination and chlorination treatment are carried out by the suppliers concerned. In the case of the Massinghams' sources, however, chlorination of the water is carried out by the Council's own staff.

(iii) The water supplied is not affected by any plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) There has been no form of contamination in the piped water supplies.

(v) See schedule at end of Report.

This is substantially the same as last year.

Drainage and Sewerage. This remains much as in previous years, although a number of vaults and ashpits have been replaced by sanitary pails and dustbins.

A priority list of Parishes, which the Council considered as in urgent need of servicing, was submitted to the County Council. Following a joint survey, made by the County Medical Officer's staff and the Council's Sanitary Inspector, the following Parishes were classified as follows:-

1st Priority	South Wootton.
2nd Priority	Castleacre.
3rd Priority	Gayton, Grimston, Harpley, Gt. Massingham, Middleton & West Winch

Scavenging. Throughout the year a scheme for the fortnightly collection of refuse for the whole District has been in operation and has worked exceedingly well.

Also a prompt cess-pool emptying service has been available. During the year too, the Council received delivery of a modern refuse collector of 10 cu.yd. capacity, which has greatly improved, from a hygienic viewpoint, the methods of refuse collection.

Housing. During the year, the Ministry of Health relaxed the Control on Civil Building, and extended the £10 limit to £100, which is now the maximum sum which can be expended without official permit. This relaxation should assist towards getting essential repairs done





to properties, although unfortunately, there has not been any considerable relaxation in the control, or supplies of materials and building components. Also during the year, the housing survey of the whole District, as requested by the Ministry of Health, was completed, and a comprehensive report is being prepared for presentation to the Council.

During the year 84 new houses were erected by the Council, and 14 houses built by private enterprise, making a total of 98 dwellings. In comparison with neighbouring Authorities, these figures appear satisfactory.

In addition the W.A.A.F. Site, Little Massingham was taken over by the Council, and converted into 23 dwellings by the Council's Surveyor.

Milk. All applications under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1935 - 45, that is, for Accredited or T.T. Licences, are now dealt with entirely by the County Council.

As regards ordinary cowkeepers (i.e. non designated herds), the number on the Council's register amounts to 106.

Factories Act, 1937 & 1938. No action has been necessary under this Act. Being entirely a Rural District, factories are non-existent with the single exception of H.M. Flax Establishment, West Newton.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS (From Registrar General) FOR 1948.

POPULATION: 10,310.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Live Births. Legitimate.	88	88	176	Birth rate per 1000 of estimated population, 18.52.
Births. Illegitimate.	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>15</u>	
	<u>98</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>191</u>	
Still Births. Legitimate.	-	2	2	Rate of 10.35 per 1000 total Births.
Births. Illegitimate.	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	
Deaths	59	71	130.	Death rate 12.60 per 1000 estimated population.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were 193 total births registered with no maternal mortality. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 1.02 per 1000 total births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Seven deaths of children under one year were registered with mortality rate of 30.65 per 1000 live births. There were three premature births and one death from prematurity. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 34 per 1000 live births. The death rate for the whole country was 10.8 per 1000 total population.



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Your Ref:- 2095/10000.  
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Council Offices,  
11, King Street,  
King's Lynn.  
16th September, 1949.

Sir,

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for Year 1948

I beg to refer to the 5 copies recently forwarded to your Department under Circular 13/47 and to inform you that the figures shown therein in respect of Tuberculosis cases should be amended as follows arising out of a subsequent check of the Tuberculosis Registers, namely:-

Male Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	not 6 cases.
Female "	3	" 5 "
Male Non-Pulmonary "	3	" 4 "
Female "	3	" 4 "
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13	19
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Medical Officer of Health desires me to express his regret for the error in these figures, and the unreal picture of the state of tuberculosis among the population in my Council's District.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) A. Weatherbed

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Health,  
Whitehall,  
London, S.W.1.





INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED  
IN 1948.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	8	2	-
Pneumonia.	8	1	3
Whooping Cough	13	-	-
Measles.	80	-	-
Chicken Pox.	5	-	-
Jaundice.	4	-	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-
	<hr/> 120	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3

Measles, as in 1947, was the only prominent Infectious Disease, whilst Diphtheria, like in 1947, was again absent, and fortunately too the District was free from Infantile Paralysis.

Tuberculosis.

The following new cases were notified:-

Male pulmonary tuberculosis,	6	(4)
Female pulmonary tuberculosis,	5	(4)
Male non-pulmonary tuberculosis,	4	(3)
Female non-pulmonary tuberculosis,	4	(3)

The 1947 figures are shown in parentheses.

<hr/> 19	(14)
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GENERAL REMARKS.

I record the valuable services of the Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant, and in particular I have to thank the former for the information that in the main has enabled this report to be presented. Thanks are also due to the clerical staff of the Local Area Health Offices for their work in the maintenance of records, etc.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,

*John Hamilton.*

1st July, 1949.





Section C  
(v) Schedule

WATER SUPPLIES  
FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS  
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Parish	<u>Supplied direct to houses</u>		<u>Supplied by standpipes</u>	
	<u>No. of houses supplied</u>	<u>Approx. Population</u>	<u>No. of houses supplied</u>	<u>Approx. Population</u>
Bawsoy	7	21	8	24
Castleacre	-	-	-	-
Castle Rising	25 <sup>H</sup>	75 <sup>H</sup>	57 <sup>H</sup>	171 <sup>H</sup>
Congham	-	-	-	-
Flitcham	-	-	-	-
Gayton	24	96	1	10
Grimston	-	-	-	-
Harploay	-	-	-	-
Hillington	40 <sup>H</sup>	120 <sup>H</sup>	22 <sup>H</sup>	65 <sup>H</sup>
Leziate	62	206	20	60
Great Massingham	28	90	195	585
Little Massingham	5	15	30	90
Middleton	4	16	38	162
Pentney	8	25	-	-
Roydon	-	-	-	-
North Runcton	-	-	-	-
Sandringham	150 <sup>H</sup> (approx)	450 <sup>H</sup>	-	-
East Walton	-	-	-	-
Westacre	6	24	-	-
East Winch	-	-	6	20
West Winch	35	105	20	60
North Wootton	37	148	53	159
South Wootton	182	728	-	-
Totals	<u>613</u>	<u>2119</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>1406</u>

\*Private supplies provided  
by the Castle Rising, Hillington  
and Sandringham Estates respectively.

